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GRENADA/COUP

JENNINGS: Good evening. American forces in Grenada are still being sniped at from time-to-time, but the fighting is essentially over. We've learned more about American casualties. Eighteen men died, 86 were wounded, and one is missing. Some casualties were caused by American troops firing on their own men. The White House today confirms a tragic mistake involving civilians. A mental hospital near the capital, St. George's, was destroyed by American bombing. As John McWethy reports from the Pentagon, it is uncertain how many people died.

MCWETHY: The Pentagon today admitted that American warplanes did accidentally bomb a mental hospital the first day of fighting. A Canadian magazine first aired the charge, saying the death toll from the bombing could reach 50. Unofficially, the Pentagon is saying the number will probably be less than 20, that the facility was near Cuban artillery positions and was not known to be a hospital. Yesterday, American soldiers encountered one of the elderly patients on the road and carried him to safety. Pentagon sources confirmed that American troops initially had to rely on tourists' maps during the first days of fighting. American air strikes not only hit the hospital, but also at least one U.S. position, wounding 14. In the heat of battle, two helicopters collided after being fired upon, killing and wounding several other Americans, and one soldier on his way home by plane forgot to unload his rifle and accidentally shot and wounded the man sitting across from him. Today in Washington, three of the five wounded who were presented to the media said they had received their injuries from American fire. In addition to warehouses filled with Soviet and Cuban weapons and documents indicating big future Cuban plans for Grenada, the U.S. also found something else on the island that is said to intrigue the intelligence community. The search of one Cuban barracks near Point Salines revealed private quarters far better than most. In each room, the U.S. reportedly found a closet full of civilian suits, identical suitcases and briefcases, individual packets of American money, several thousand dollars apiece, plus airline tickets and diaries indicating that some of the occupants had recently traveled to the U.S. One intelligence source speculated that it looked like a sizable Cuban spy network being run out of Grenada instead of Havana because of easier access to other nations of the hemisphere. Military sources also say despite initial resistance on Grenada, they now believe the Cubans were taken by surprise. A number of key anti-aircraft batteries were never fired or manned. An entire contingent of Cuban officers was never able to join its men but had to fight as a separate unit while its troops were leaderless. Also, Pentagon sources say if the Cubans had expected an invasion, the U.S. would never have recovered so many secret documents; they would have been destroyed. John McWethy, ABC News, the Pentagon.